

**Health Risk Behaviors Among High School-Aged Youth**  
**National and Montana Comparisons of Selected Elements**  
*(with Non-random Data\*\* for Montana Respondents attending Alternative Schools)*

*Sources: 2003 U.S. and 2005 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (OPI)*

<b>Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data</b> (percent of students who)	<b>Montana 2005 Alt. School**</b>		<b>Montana 2005 High School</b>		<b>U.S. 2003 High School</b>
Carried a weapon in the past 30 days	31.6		21.4		17.1
Carried a gun in the past 30 days	11.6		9.0		6.1
Carried a weapon on school property in the past 30 days	16.8		10.2		6.1
Did not go to school in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe	6.7		4.2		5.4
Were in a physical fight in the past 12 months	51.1		30.5		33.0
Actually attempted suicide in the past 12 months	22.2		10.3		8.5
Ever smoked a cigarette (lifetime use)	90.5		55.4		58.4
Are "current" smokers (smoked on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	70.4		20.1		21.9
Ever smoked daily (at least 1 cigarette every day for 30 days)	61.2		15.2		15.8
Are "frequent" smokers (smoked on 20 or more of the previous 30 days)	50.9		8.8		9.7
Are "current" smokeless tobacco users (used chew or smokeless tobacco on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	20.9		14.8		6.7
Ever had consumed alcohol (lifetime alcohol use)	92.3		77.8		74.9
Are "current" alcohol users (drank alcohol on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	68.0		48.6		44.9
"Binge" drink (episodic heavy drinking, consuming 5 or more drinks at one occasion in the previous 30 days)	58.5		34.4		28.3
Ever used marijuana (lifetime marijuana use)	86.1		41.7		40.2

<b>Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data</b> (percent of students who)	<b>Montana 2005 Alt. School**</b>		<b>Montana 2005 High School</b>		<b>U.S. 2003 High School</b>
Are "current" marijuana users (used marijuana 1 or more times in the previous 30 days)	65.5		22.3		22.4
Ever used inhalants (lifetime inhalant use)	28.8		15.4		12.1
Ever used methamphetamines (lifetime use)	40.2		8.3		7.6
Ever had sexual intercourse	83.9		43.6		46.7
Are currently sexually active (had sexual intercourse in the past 3 months)	65.0		31.2		34.3
Of those who ever had sex, the percent who used alcohol or drugs before last sexual intercourse	41.4		29.4		25.4
Are attempting to lose weight	40.7		42.6		43.8
Participated in vigorous physical activity (3+ days in past 7)	45.9		65.0		62.6
Watch 3 or more hours of TV on a school night	28.6		26.3		38.2
Used alcohol before age 13	48.3		27.8		27.8
Smoked a cigarette before age 13	46.4		17.6		18.3
Tried marijuana before age 13	43.2		11.2		9.9
Had sexual intercourse before age 13	17.5		5.1		7.4

yrbs/comparison alternative schools

**Source:** 2003 U.S. and 2005 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (Office of Public Instruction)

The data for Alternative Schools represents the 402 students in alternative schools who participated in the 2005 survey.

\*\* These data represent the respondents only; it would not be valid to generalize these findings to all students who attend Alternative schools in Montana.